

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

MANUAL OF ELECTROTHERAPY — Third Edition — Arthur L. Watkins, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Chief of Physical Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital. Lea & Febiger, 600 S. Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19106), 1968. 262 pages, \$6.50.

This is the third edition of this manual of electrotherapy, which refers to all the electrical modalities which I used in physical therapy. This includes the use of radiant energy (infrared heating), ultraviolet, low voltage and low frequency currents, high frequency currents (diathermy) and ultrasound. The electrophysics, instrumentation, application, and a few indications are given for each modality. Brief mention is also made of electromyography. The book is well written, well illustrated, and quite concise in its descriptions. It is excellent in its elementary presentation.

In these days of emphasis on exercise and activities of daily training, as well as vocational training and rehabilitation, the physical therapy treatment of the patient with simple musculoskeletal disease has become so routine that few physicians understand its application and rationale. This book was designed for the student of physical therapy and for those physicians who wish to have a well-done introduction into the electrotherapy aspect of physical therapy.

S. MALVERN DORINSON, M.D.

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THE NEONATE WITH CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE — Richard D. Rowe, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.P. Edin., Professor of Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Director, Cardiac Clinic, Children's Medical and Surgical Center, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; and Ali Mehri, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Children's Medical and Surgical Center, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. Volume V in the Series "Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics," Alexander J. Schaffer, Consulting Editor. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. 445 pages, \$12.50.

This is the fifth volume in a series entitled "Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics," edited by Alexander J. Schaffer, the consulting editor for the W. B. Saunders Co., of Philadelphia, London and Toronto.

This is not the first book devoting itself entirely to the problem of the diagnosis and treatment of the newborn infant with congenital cardiac abnormalities, but it is the first one that really enters into the problem with some depth. Despite this, there are some disappointments. The first is that even though it states it is tailored to the needs of the pediatricians and the general practitioners, it takes a great deal of general knowledge of cardiac diagnosis for granted on the part of the reader beyond what is probably the average knowledge of those in the above mentioned specialties. Another deficit is the paucity of illustrations, particularly in the chapter on the electro-

cardiogram and vectorcardiogram, with no sample electrocardiograms of the various hypertrophies and only diagrams of the vectorcardiogram, with only a very scanty discussion of the electrocardiogram, one of the most important parameters so helpful in the differential diagnosis of congenital cardiac abnormalities.

The chapter on cardiac malformations with asplenia or polysplenia syndrome is most confusing, first in its attempt to pool together the cardiac malformations with both asplenia and polysplenia, and secondly in an absence of lucidity which leaves the reader somewhat perplexed as to the exact nature of the lesions which are characteristic of asplenia, as contrasted to the polysplenia syndrome.

Aside from these minor deficiencies, the book is an excellent source for those particularly interested in the differential diagnosis of cardiac abnormalities in the newborn period. Following the first part, which is a general introduction and approach to the infant with a cardiac abnormality, Part 2 describes in some detail the ten major cardiac malformations, Part 3—the less common disorders, Part 4—the rare anomalies, and Part 5—related problems, including a very brief chapter on the diagnosis and management of heart failure in the newborn. I would recommend this book as the best published thus far on the vitally important problem of the diagnosis and treatment of infants in that most critical period, the newborn.

SAUL J. ROBINSON, M.D.

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ORR'S OPERATIONS OF GENERAL SURGERY — Fourth Edition — George A. Higgins, M.D., F.A.C.S., Chief, Surgical Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Clinical Professor of Surgery, George Washington University School of Medicine; Clinical Professor of Surgery, Georgetown University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1968. 861 pages, \$27.00.

Since its first publication in 1944, Orr's textbook of the operations of general surgery has remained one of the best in which the step-wise method of presentation of operative procedures is used. The fourth edition of this work maintains the standards of quality set by the previous three.

A new printing format makes this text similar to other modern texts and improves its readability. This edition is shorter than the third by 155 pages and contains 41 fewer figures, yet there are 2,048 step-by-step illustrations of operative procedures, all of which are quite clear and of excellent quality. Comparison of the third and fourth editions reveals that the shortening of the latter is accomplished by the deletion of various procedures that are no longer particularly useful in the realm of modern surgery.

The scope of the work remains quite large, though the bulk of the material pertains to that which is still con-